



Zion Lutheran Church – LCMS
20-141 County Road X – P.O. Box 37 – Ridgeville Corners, OH 43555
Phone: (419)267-3429 Email: zionrco@bright.net
Education Hour 8:45 AM - Divine Worship 10:00 AM
Communion First and Third Sundays
Rev. Dr. Carl Rockrohr, Pastor
Phone: (419)267-3429 Email: pastor.zionrco@bright.net

Friday, December 24, 2021 – 1:00 pm
Christmas Eve Day

Prelude
Tower Bells
Welcome and Announcements

Visitors are encouraged to note their attendance at Zion by filling out the "Welcome" side (blue print) of the pew cards and putting the card into the offering plate.

Opening Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380

Confession and Absolution

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Introit Psalm 110:1-4

1 The Lord says to my Lord:
**“Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.”**

2 The Lord sends forth from Zion
your mighty scepter.

Rule in the midst of your enemies!

3 Your people will offer themselves freely
on the day of your power,

in holy garments;
**from the womb of the morning,
the dew of your youth will be yours.**

4 The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind,

**“You are a priest forever
after the order of Melchizedek.**

Kyrie (*speak*) P: Lord, have mercy. C: **Christ, have mercy.** All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.**

All: O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 7:10-14

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: 11 “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” 12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” 13 And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

P: This is the Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle 1 John 4:7-16

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 1st chapter.

C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

(Inside the back cover of the hymnal)

Sermon Hymn

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

LSB 390

Sermon

Hymn

Silent Night

LSB 363

Offering Brought Forward During Last Verse of Silent Night

Prayer of the Zion Lutheran Church

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For thankfulness, that our heavenly Father would strengthen our faith by the remembrance that Jesus took on a heart and hands to go to the cross, that our hearts might be pure and our hands clean before Him, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church and her constant testimony that Jesus is the Savior of the world; for pastors, that they would proclaim Christ boldly; and for all God’s people, that they would make known the praises of the One born in Bethlehem, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For peace in all homes, that our heavenly Father, who sent an angel to reveal Jesus' identity and Mary's fidelity to Joseph, would richly preserve all families with His Word and grace to live in love for one another; for all who raise children may be full of God's grace and protection; and for the health and protection of all pregnant mothers and their children; let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For good government, that God would move all those in authority to govern in service to the Son and Lord of David, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For generosity, that the Father who loves us and sent His Son as the propitiation for our sins would perfect His love in us to show kindness to those in need, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

In thanksgiving for the faithful saints who have gone before us who now stand before God's throne, and that He would preserve us in the holiness of Christ so that we, too, might dwell in His light and life for eternity, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, You have given Your Son, born of Mary, to be the Savior of the world. Send Your Spirit and abide with us, that we might confess that Jesus is the Savior of the world and abide in Your love until He comes again in glory; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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In our prayers – Margaret Hesterman; Charlotte Rosebrock; Loretta Cramer; Karlyn Tonjes; Shirley Ketzler; Bill Reimund; Jason Sepeda; Gary Rosebrock; Bryceton Bidlack; Keith Barth; Brad Miller; Don Wallace; Denny Henderson; Ruby Cass; James Wagenknecht; Violet Eberly; Joe DeFilippo; Kim Carreker; Jeff Fedderke; Darlene Myers; Andrew Wright; Daniel Losek; Pastor Niermann; Pastor Scheiwe and Pastor Berlin. *Please contact Pastor Rockrohr for changes to the prayer list.*

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The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P: Let us bless the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

LSB 387

Silent Prayer, Extinguish Candles

Postlude and Depart in His Peace

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Christmas Eve 1 pm Sermon – “Do Not Fear!”

I. Do Not Fear Christmas Readings

Luke 1:11-13

11 And there appeared to him [Zechariah] an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. 13 But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

Luke 1:28-31

28 And he came to her [Mary] and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

Matthew 1:18 -21

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Luke 2:8- 11

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

II. Why fear?

A. Power and Surprise of the “Supernatural”

B. The Angel is Holy, from God.... Or, “Am I in trouble?”

C. According to Our Sins, Fear is Correct. But the Message is Love and Favor

1 John 4:16-18

God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

“Perfect” = completed, accomplished, finished

III. “Do Not Fear”

A. God’s Christmas Angels Bring Good News (“You are not in trouble! Help is here!”)

B. Angel Message to Joseph: “The Baby will save people from their _____ “

C. God’s Grace and Power Reach Into Every Situation

i. Zechariah and Elizabeth

ii. Mary

III. Joseph

iv. All the people

V. Me